

**Citizens Advisory Committee
Aviation Subcommittee**

**Aeronautics Auditorium
2700 East Airport Service Drive
Capital City Airport**

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2008

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Bill Gehman, Dan DeGraaf, James Koslosky, Keith Ledbetter, Sylvester Payne.

Absent: Linda Miller-Atkinson, Mike Fikes, Robert Struck, Kirk Steudle.

Mr. Koslosky made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2008, with one correction, seconded by Mr. Payne. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gehman offered an opportunity for public comments. None forthcoming.

Mr. Hoeffner provided an overview of the April 21, 2008 Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) meeting held in Grand Rapids. Material from that meeting can be found on the TF2 website. Discussion followed.

Matt Brinker from MDOT presented material on information requested by the Subcommittee at the April 15, 2008 meeting. Questions and discussion followed. Items from the discussion that will be researched or were mentioned as possible recommendations to consider include:

- Is information available that would allow the subcommittee to provide examples of how businesses would be impacted if an airport such as Willow Run were to shut down (DeGraaf). Mr. Brinker noted a film about flying lobsters that could have the potential to provide anecdotal information.
- Is there anyway to take advantage of the positive spillover from automotive R&D to aviation by linking the two? (Koslosky). Should the Transportation Economic Development Fund eligibility be expanded to include aviation projects? (Gehman).
- How is MDOT enforcing the requirement that airports have a pavement management plan? (Koslosky). MDOT will research this.
- How often are pavement conditions evaluated? MDOT will research this.
- Should the subcommittee explore funding for a state/local program for maintenance to leverage state dollars as is done with federal capital funding? (Koslosky).

Mr. Gehman led a discussion on how best to define the needs of the system. Items from the discussion that will be researched or were mentioned as possible recommendations to consider include:

- Is it possible to get an estimate of unconstrained needs? (Gehman). MDOT will research this.
- Needs are documented in the MI Transportation Plan. However, they may not be unconstrained (needs vs. wants). Subcommittee would like to see a summary of how we are going to determine needs, and it may end up as being the needs estimate from the MI Transportation Plan. MDOT will prepare this.

Mr. Gehman led a discussion of how best to determine the cost of doing nothing and what good, better, and best scenarios might entail. Items from the discussion that will be researched or were mentioned as possible recommendations to consider include:

- Is it possible to look at how increases in spending could lead to more jobs or economic activity? (Ledbetter).
- Does information exist to show the impacts of increases in the cost of doing business due to increasing congestion or other infrastructure issues or if services are curtailed? (DeGraaf).
- Good, better and best could be defined graphically - with good being enough in state funding to match federal aid, better being enough to match federal aid and operate a robust state/local program for pavement maintenance, and best being meeting all the capital needs. (Koslosky). MDOT will work on this along with supporting materials.
- Subcommittee should examine the programs run by MDOT (Aeronautical Services) and the cost to operate the programs, differentiating between required and discretionary programs (Gehman). MDOT will research this. Point was stressed that permitting fees should cover program costs and that the subcommittee should look into whether changes in fees would require statutory changes. (DeGraaf).

Mr. Gehman asked subcommittee members for other ideas or areas the subcommittee might explore for potential recommendations to forward on to the TF2 in the subcommittee's report. Items from the discussion that will be researched or were mentioned as possible recommendations to consider include:

- Report should talk about the state capital outlay process and how to avoid a situation where aviation projects get tangled up in political wrangling. (Ledbetter).
- Subcommittee should look at what state taxes are preempted by the federal law. (Gehman).
- If a recommendation is made to increase state funding, subcommittee should explore the need to create firewalls around the state funds to assure the public that the funds are being used for their intended purpose. (Koslosky).

Mr. Gehman led a discussion of the future Aviation Subcommittee meeting schedule. Future meeting schedule was left unchanged.

Next scheduled meeting

May 16, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Bureau of Aeronautics

Commission Meeting Room

2700 E. Airport Service Drive

Lansing, MI 48906

End Time: 11:10 a.m.